**Government under the Roman Republic**

The Roman system of government might seem a little strange to us, but for them it worked for almost 500 years.  The republic was run by the Senate.  The senate passed all laws and collected all taxes.  All members of the Senate were of the Patrician or wealthy landowner class.

At the head of the senate were two consuls.  The Consuls controlled the legions of Rome.  A senator was selected by the Consuls and remained a senator for life.  The Consuls also selected the new members of the Senate if a senator died.  To become a consul, you had to be elected by a majority of the popular vote from all citizens of Rome.

There was a second part of Roman government, the assembly.  The assembly was elected by Romans from the plebeian class.  The Assembly had no real power per the governmental structure, but if you didn't listen to the assembly they had the power of most of the citizens behind them and could make life very interesting.

**Structure of Government Under the Republic**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***2 Consuls Head of Government*** | ***Senate (300 members)*** | ***Assembly*** |
| PATRICIANS | PATRICIANS | PLEBEIANS |
| 1 year term | Life term |  |
| Consuls chose the Senators |  | Elected the 2 Consuls |
| Ran the government, overseeing the work of other government officials. | Advised the consuls. Advised the Assembly. | Elected government officials including judges. |
| Directed (commanded) the army | Directed spending, including tax dollars |  |
| Acted as judges | Approved or disapproved laws made by the Assembly | Voted on laws suggested by government officials |
| In an emergency, consuls could choose a dictator as a single ruler to make quick decisions. | Made decisions concerning relationships with foreign powers | Declared war or peace |
| Both consuls had to agree on their decisions. Each had the power to Veto the other. In Latin, veto means to forbid. |  |  |

Nomen:

Tempus:

Instructions: Using both the reading “Government under the Roman Republic” and chart “Structure of Government Under the Republic”fill in the blanks with the correct answers.

1. Number of Consuls = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Number of Senators = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. The Assembly was made up of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Consuls and senators were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. A Consuls’ term = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. A Senator’s term = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Fill in the blank whether the job belonged to the Consuls, Senate, or Assembly.

1. Made decisions concerning foreign powers \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Commanded army \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Chose the Senators \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Elected Consuls \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. Declared war or peace \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. Approved or disapproved laws made by the Assembly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. In case of emergency, chose a dictator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
8. In charge of spending (i.e. money) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Fill in the blank with your opinion- no right or wrong answer!

1. Which job do you think was most important? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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